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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The long term stability of the dielectric fluids of the invention may be improved by utilizing any of the conventional methods known for improving the stability or performance of dielectric fluids. For example, one or more antioxidant or antimicrobial compounds may be added to the dielectric fluid. Useful antioxidant compounds for this purpose can be dissolved directly in the dielectric fluid comprising the vegetable oil and include, for example, BHA (butylated hydroanisole hydroxyanisole), BHT (butylated hydrotoluene hydroxytoluene), TBHQ (tertiary butylhydroquinone butylhydroxyquinone), THBP (tetrahydrobutyrophene tetrahydroxybutyrophene), ascorbyl palmitate (rosemary oil), propyl gallate, and alpha-, beta- or delta-tocopherol (vitamin E). It is generally also desirable to include in the dielectric fluid one or more additives to inhibit the growth of microorganisms. Any antimicrobial substance that is compatible with the dielectric fluid may be blended into the fluid. In some cases, compounds that are useful as antioxidants also may be used as antimicrobials. It is known, for example, that phenolic antioxidants such as BHA also exhibit some activity against bacteria, molds, viruses and protozoa, particularly when used with other antimicrobial substances such as potassium sorbate, sorbic acid or monoglycerides. Vitamin E, ascorbyl palmitate and other known compounds also are suitable for use as antimicrobial additives to the dielectric fluid.